

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,957 Confirmation No. 3956
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.
Filed : June 9, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 1763
Examiner : Ram N. Kackar
Docket No. : 039.9016
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached documents listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

All of the presently submitted documents, i.e., Cite Nos. F1 through F12 as listed on the IDS List of References, are not in English. These published patent applications were cited in two communications issued on separate occasions by the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application. In particular, Cite Nos. F1 and F2 were cited as primary references in a JPO communication dated September 5, 2006 in the counterpart application, while Cite Nos. F3 through F12 were cited as primary references in a JPO communication dated December 12, 2006.

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)

As a concise explanation of the relevance of Cite Nos. F1 through F12, English translations of entirety of the two Japanese Patent Office communications are submitted herewith. The JPO communications were in Japanese Pat. App. No.

2004-051867, the foreign patent application on the basis of which priority is claimed in the present application. (Copies of the Japanese Patent Office communications in their entirety follow the English translations.)

Furthermore, English abstracts of Cite Nos. F1 through F12 are available on the Japanese Patent Office website through Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ), and a copy of the corresponding PAJ abstract is attached to the back of each reference.

Fee Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)

A final rejection was issued in the present application on September 7, 2006, and as the date on which the JPO communication citing Cite Nos. F1 and F2 was September 5, 2006, an attestation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1) cannot be made. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2), the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) is being submitted an authorization, accompanying the EFS Web submission of this paper, to charge to a credit card the \$180 fee.

STATEMENT AS STIPULATED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each of Cite Nos. F3 through F12 as listed on the IDS List of References accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

January 14, 2007

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
Registration No. 42,701

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